

MAKE YOUR OWN

BUTTON CASTANETS

Information



Castanets are a pair of small hand-held instrument that click together to make the most wonderful rhythms! You can find them in Spain but also in Italy and Portugal, too! Many historians think that castanets – or castañuelas as they are called in Spanish – were probably made from the shells of walnuts or chestnuts, so this was a creative way of making music with found materials.



A fun way to explore a simple version of this instrument is by creating a pair (or more) of button castanets. Supplies needed for this craft are simple – sturdy paper, pairs of buttons and glue or hot glue.

HOW TO MAKE THEM

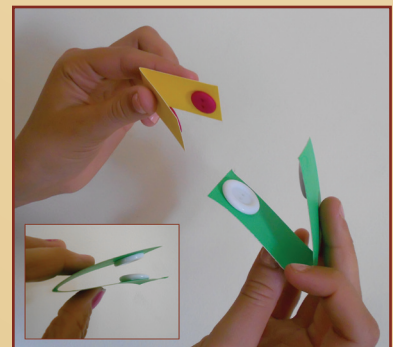


Start by cutting rectangles of the sturdy paper about 4 – 6 inches long and about ½ to 1 inch wide. Fold the paper in half so that it leaves a crease in the middle.

Next, choose a pair of buttons and glue one on each end. After the button castanet is dry, pick it up and play by clicking the buttons together. Make several pairs with different kinds of buttons and notice how the sound is unique with each one. *(One safety note: If you are working with small children or have younger children nearby, be cautious about the buttons as potential choking hazards if swallowed.)*

PLAYING BUTTON CASTANETS

This craft is so easy that even an adult can do it! Feel free to learn, play and explore along with your child. Simply put the button castanets between your thumb and first finger and click away. Play fast, slow, or tap back and forth between the left hand and right hand. Click or clack along to a favorite song or rhyme or put on a recording of music that you love. See if you can match the beat you hear or create a new one that works with the song.



SUPPLIES

- A small amount of sturdy paper (such as a recycled manila folder or poster board)
- Pairs of buttons
- Glue or glue gun

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